

Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules - request form - Request Approved

ECP408541282

Your details

First name	Emma
Last name	Finn
Email address	emma.finn@watford.gov.uk
Job Title	Economic Development Consultant
Section/Department	Economic Development

Exemption request details

Exemption category	Exceptional Circumstances
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Details / Circumstances / Explanation of why an exemption was required

The previous exemption for Young Entrepreneurs 2 didn't include the value of the grant element and VAT costs, which is required. In total this amounts to £114,999.20. The figure has been amended below. This month the University of Hertfordshire is due to complete a highly successful programme, on behalf of Watford Borough Council, supporting young entrepreneurs. This is funded through the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). These are young people based in Watford aged between 18 and 30, a demographic that has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. This programme is designed to help them to start-up viable business models. It comprises Stage 1: a Bootcamp of seminars and workshops for eligible participants. Stage 2: an intensive programme of support for those with creative/green businesses and the opportunity to apply for a grant. An exemption was approved on 17th August 2021 of £51,769.20 because the market was limited, and we needed to proceed quickly. - 57 young people have taken part in the programme, against a target of 40-50. - 23 have taken part in the second part of the programme and been awarded grants, against a target of 20. - The University is providing an estimated £35k of in-kind support as part of this programme. As a result of this success we are looking to extend this programme to be delivered by the University of Hertfordshire. This would enable a further 30 - 40 young people to benefit from a programme which will run between mid-March 2022 and 31st August 2022 at a cost of £114,999.20 including £50k grant funding and VAT. We are seeking an exemption as the University of Hertfordshire is a trusted supplier, they have delivered a highly successful pilot, and for continuity purposes. It is imperative that the ARG government grant is spent by the end of March and therefore, for continuation of this important area of work, we are seeking an exemption on the grounds of clear synergies with existing services. Secondly there is a very limited market for this activity - there is unlikely to be another supplier who with limited time could develop and deliver such a programme. The synergies to the existing services delivered by the University of Hertfordshire and benefits in them delivering the new contract include: - Developing and delivering a bespoke Young Entrepreneurs programme tailored to those aged 18-30 years. - Providing knowledge and skills to young people through specially created seminars and workshops delivered by experienced business specialists. - Enabling one to one bespoke advice and support to help young people establish and grow their businesses. Benefits to the University of Hertfordshire delivering the new contract include: - Trusted Supplier: the University of Hertfordshire is an experienced, highly regarded organisation which works with partners to deliver a range of projects and has particular experience working with young people. - Programme Delivery: they have exceeded all targets for the Young Entrepreneurs, bringing to the programme a wealth of ideas, knowledge and expertise. - Continuity: the University of Hertfordshire, as a specialist contractor for the existing service, has proven that they can deliver the current contract highly effectively and have the knowledge, skills and contacts to deliver this additional programme. Therefore, we are seeking an exemption due to exceptional circumstances due to continuity, clear synergies with the existing service, the requirement to spend and create the programme at pace.

Contract Title

Young Entrepreneurs 2

Vendor / Contractor	Emma Finn
Date Contract let	21 March 2022
Term / Duration of Contract	5 months, 1 week
End date	31 August 2022
Total Value of Contract	Â£114,999.20
Contract Manager name	Emma Finn
Contract Manager email	emma.finn@watford.gov.uk
Comments / Other Information	
Date	21 March 2022

Group Head of Service approval

Decision	Approve and forward to the Managing Director
Date	21 March 2022

Managing Director decision

Decision	Approve the request
Managing Director	Donna Nolan
Date	21 March 2022
Previous comments	2022-03-21 14:25 - Tom Dobrashian: Approve due to limited market, need to deliver the programme and for continuity, recognise it has to be reported to Cabinet 2022-03-21 19:18 - Donna Nolan: Approved for the compelling reasons outlined in the exemption request

Portfolio holder

Name of the Portfolio Holder informed	Peter Taylor
Date the Portfolio Holder was informed	17 March 2022
Date reported to Cabinet (If over Â£100K)	06 June 2022